

# **\*\*ATTENTION\*\***

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## CROW

The American Crow ( Corvus brachyrhynchos ) is one of the most common birds in urban areas of western Washington. This large (17-21 inches) coal-black bird is readily distinguished by its raucous "caw caw". Crows are opportunistic feeders, dining on insects, nuts, fruit, fish, snakes, eggs and young of birds, garbage, and even traffic-killed animals. Crows tend to be very social birds, often flocking together in large numbers. They aggressively defend their nests and young, sometimes swooping down on people who are merely walking by a nest tree.

Crows are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act but may be controlled without a federal permit when found "committing or about to commit depredations upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock or wildlife, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance".

The following are control methods recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Damage Control division:

1. Haze with pyrotechnics such as cracker shells, firecrackers, or automatic gas exploders.
2. Use recorded distress calls to frighten away.
3. Modify habitat by removing every other limb from nest tree or roost tree.
4. Trap or shoot (check your local ordinances concerning firearms restrictions).
5. Remove nest and eggs or young.

For more information, call the U.S.D.A. Animal Damage Control office in Olympia at (206) 753-9884.